



Invitation to Eco- Congregation Scotland's Annual Gathering and AGM 2016

You are warmly invited to this year's Gathering on Saturday 23rd April, 10am to 3.15pm at St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

The theme of this year's Gathering is
A Space for Nature in Your Congregation.

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" psalms 24.1.
This year's Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering asks what it means to practice creation care locally. Together, we explore meeting God in God's world, marvelling at creation, and working practically to find a place for nature in our congregations.

Join us in this journey, in company with **Stuart Housden**, Director of RSPB Scotland, and **Andy Lester**, Director of Conservation at A Rocha UK.

Stuart Housden has worked with the RSPB since 1976 and became Director of RSPB Scotland in 1994. As a member of the RSPB's UK board his role is to give strategic guidance on the development and delivery of all of the RSPB's work in top level management. In Scotland, Stuart is involved with a number of groups established by the Scottish Government to look at issues around biodiversity, land use, and other issues. His team manage over 70,000 Ha in extensive land with a variety of programs to deliver for people and biodiversity.

Andy Lester Andy Lester is the Conservation Director for the Christian environmental charity A Rocha UK. He oversees the development of UK practical projects and regularly writes and speaks for the organisation. Andy also works as a local Chair for Hampshire and Isle of White Wildlife Trust; is a local newspaper columnist on all things nature related and is at present helping to develop a new 300 acre nature reserve near his home just outside Southampton.

A light lunch will be provided and teas and coffees available throughout the day.

PROGRAMME

10:00	Registration, workshop sign-up, teas and coffees	11:40	Questions and discussion
10:30	Worship	12:00	Lunch
10:40	AGM	13:00	Workshops (1)
11:00	Keynote speaker: Stuart Housden	14:00	Workshops (2)
11:20	Keynote speaker: Andy Lester	15:00	Closing discussion
		15:15	Finish

DISPLAY STANDS

During the lunch hour there will be an opportunity to display material from your congregation or organisation. Please contact us if you plan to bring anything along.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

There are five workshops to choose from, and each will run twice to give you an opportunity to take part in two of the five options.

COP in or COP out?*

The UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP21) was hailed as a success by some, and a failure by others. Eco-congregation Scotland will present a workshop on what happened in Paris and what it means for churches.

Bats in Churchyards

The Bat Conservation Trust will lead a workshop on bat conservation and what to do if you've got bats in your churchyard.

Championing Wildlife During the Scottish Parliamentary Elections

Do you want to elect MPs who understand the importance of nature and ecosystems and who will take action in parliament to protect them? Find out how to proclaim your priority for wildlife at in the next parliament.

Scottish Woodlands and their Essential Invertebrates: Roles in and out of the woodland.

Join Buglife to investigate the smaller creatures of the woodland, the delicate interactions that keep the woodlands alive and discover some of the most amazing wildlife Scotland has to offer.

A Rocha UK*

Christian Conservation Charity, A Rocha UK will present a workshop on caring for creation.

*working title and content subject to change

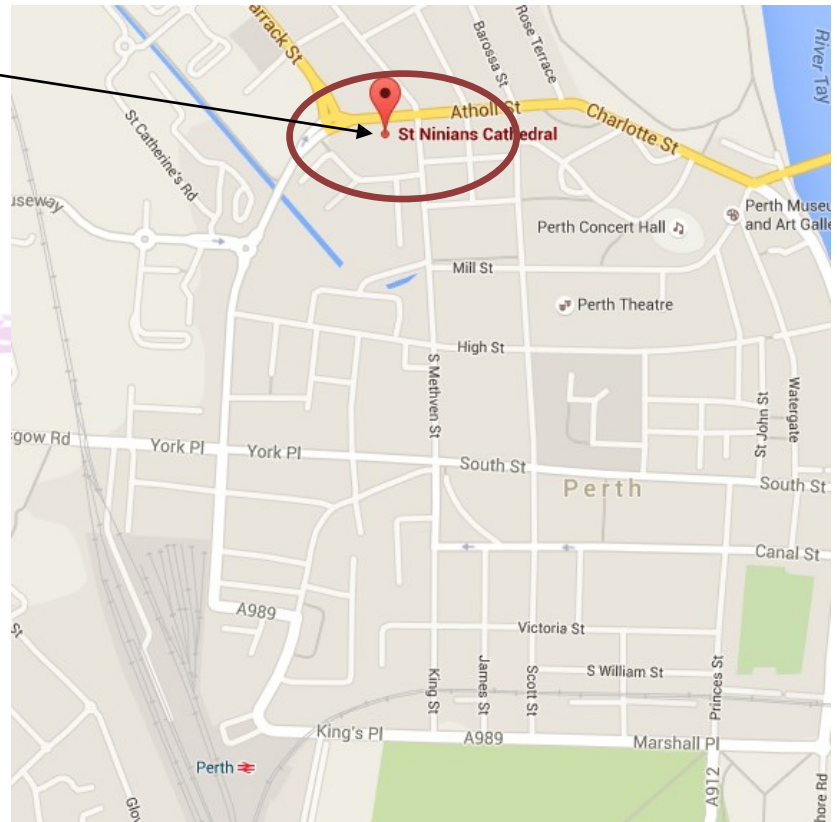
LOCATION

St Ninian's Cathedral,
North Methven St, Perth,
PH1 5PP

The church can be reached on foot in ten minutes from Perth station. There is no parking at the venue itself but you can park in nearby car parks or on street.

NB The entrance to the church is from the South Methven Street.

The venue has disabled access from Atholl street.



BOOKING YOUR PLACE

There is no booking fee from the conference; however, a donation of £15 is invited to cover the costs of the venue and catering. You can give us your donation on the day,

Please complete the attached registration form in order to book your place. **You will be able to sign up for your workshops on the day.**

A Word Document version of the registration form can be accessed on our webpage at <http://ecocongregationscotland.org/gathering> if you would like to email it to us (pwilliams@cofscotland.org.uk); or you can print out the document attached to this invite and post it to us at:

Eco-Congregation Scotland
121 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4YN

NB Whilst everybody is warmly invited to attend the Annual Gathering, only charity members of Eco-Congregation Scotland are able to vote in the AGM. Please contact us if your congregation wishes to become a member.

BOOKING FORM

Annual Gathering 2016



Name: _____

Congregation/organisation: _____

Position (if applicable): _____

Email address: _____

Postal address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Dietary requirements (e.g. allergies, vegetarian): _____

Access requirements (e.g. wheelchair): _____

Please return this form by April 9th, 2016.

By email: pwilliams@cofscotland.org.uk.

By post: Eco-Congregation Scotland

121 George Street

Edinburgh EH2 4YN

For further information and any enquiries please don't hesitate to contact us.